

**Before the  
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
Washington, DC 20554**

## In the Matter of Creation of a Low Power Radio Service

**MM Docket no. 99-25**  
**RM. 9208**  
**RM-9242**

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**Comments of  
TANA SUE KNETSCH, PRESIDENT  
WDKB FM RADIO  
DEKALB, ILLINOIS**

**The proposed creation of low power radio frequencies will be extremely detrimental to our industry in general and specifically to hundreds of small market radio stations such as WDKB.**

**WDKB works extremely hard to meet the needs of DeKalb County. Large amounts of free air time and staff energy are devoted to make sure the “small voices” are heard. We believe in ongoing public service and consequently we offer assistance to hundreds of local agencies. The YMCA, Kishwaukee Community Hospital, Big Brothers, Big Sisters, The Salvation Army, DeKalb County Cancer Society and Heart Association, DeKalb County Health Department, our local food pantry and numerous local churches and local service organizations reap valuable benefits of free public service.**

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**My license was created as a result of the 80-90 docket. In the 9 plus years I have been involved in broadcasting, I have seen countless small market stations fail. Others have been forced to resort to non local satellite programming or sell out to large conglomerates. I have survived purely out of fear of economic failure, dedication to my community, and hard work, doing everything here from managing a small staff to emptying the wastebaskets to literally cleaning toilets. I have been one of the few lucky 80-90's to have lived through the nightmares. Local ownership is almost a foreign concept in small market radio, now you want to create hundreds of low power licenses that will again be doomed to failure. The phrase "History Repeats Itself" is applicable.**

**At present, the Commission is unable to control the existing spectrum and pirate radio stations have cropped up like undesirable weeds. How will you police these new low power frequencies when you cannot control the existing radio pirates? Will these minimal investment, low power licensees be expected to conform to the same rules and regulations as existing stations? I hope so. In addition, I am highly concerned about interference to established frequencies from LPFMs..**

**DeKalb County has a population of approximately 80,000. Currently, it is being served by 5 radio stations; no duplication of format exists. All of the stations in this market work very hard to be sure the "small voice" is heard daily. In addition, many other radio signals originating outside of the market can be heard here. We do not want for any additional programming.**

**Creating more low power stations will not improve the quality of radio, nor result in more diversified programming. In fact, it may result in the demise of local radio. As the revenue pie is split even smaller and audiences become more fragmented with**

**the addition of low power frequencies, local stations such as WDKB may no longer be able to provide quality local programming. Ineffective, poorly programmed low power frequencies will not replace what will go by the wayside. The entire radio industry will lose if your LPFM proposition is initiated.**

**I pose two more questions...What criteria have you established to assure that minorities and women will be granted these proposed low power licenses? Will issuing a low power license to a community assure that it's members will benefit by receiving diverse quality programming, or instead be subjected to nonsensical "ramblings" from extremists?**

***For the sake of our communities and for the well being of the radio industry, I urge the Commission to reconsider it's position on the addition of these low power stations to the already crowded spectrum.***